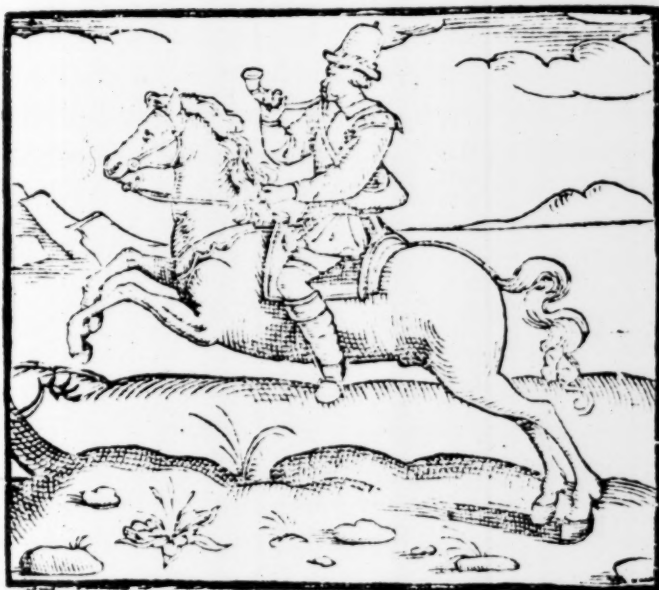


A P O S T E vwith a Packet

of mad Letters.

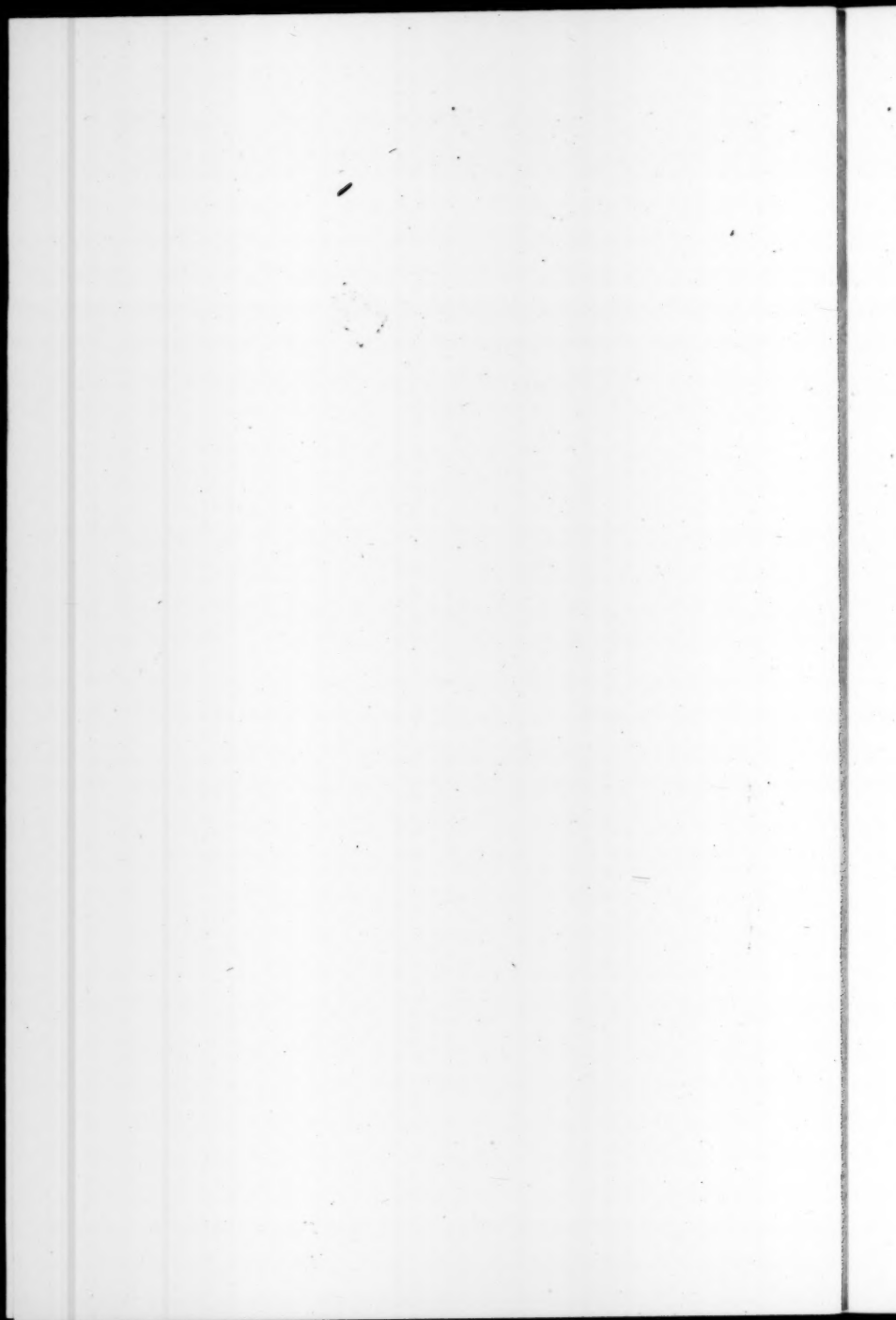
The fourth time enlarged.



LONDON

Printed by J. W. for John Smithicke, and John
Brownie, and are to be sold in S. Dunstons

Church yard in Fleetstreet,
1607,





TO THE RIGHT
VVorshipfull Maximilian Dasselton of Hawlin,
in the Countie of Kent, Esquire: Nicholas
Breton witheth the happinesse of this
world, and heauen hereafter.



Finde in Latin, French, Itali-
an, and Spanish, books of E-
pistles, dedicated to men, of
good accout, as wel for their
places as spirit; but withall,
I must confesse the Authors of those wri-
tings, to haue bin men of those iudgements,
that haue set downe matter worthy regard;
Now for my selfe, though I cannot stand in
the ranke of those rare wittes, yet noting in
your iudgement that true Noblenesse of spi-
rit, that by the regard of your good fauour,
may grace the workes of an vnworthy
hope, and presuming (vpon my knowledge
of your discretion) to receiue pardon of my

A 2 presump.

The Epistle Dedicatorie.

presumption, hoping that you shal find nothing displeasing to an honest mind, some things profitable to a yong witte, and wishing all, worthy the fauourable acceptation of your good patience, in all due thanketnesse for your vnderferued goodnesse, I humbly take my leaue.

Yours in affectionate service,

NICHOLAS BRETON.





To the Reader.

Come if you be, be you so gentle Reader,
you shall understand, that I know not
when, there came a Poste I know not
whence, was going I know not whither,
and carried I know not what: But in his
way I know not how, it was his happe,
with lacke of heede, to let fall a Packet of
idle Papers, the superscription whereof, being onely to him
that findes it, being my fortune to light on it, seeing no
greater stile in the direction, fell to opening of the inclosure,
in which I found citiers Letters written, to whom, or from
whom, I could not learne. Now for the contents of the Cir-
cumstances, when you haue reade them, iudge of them: and as
you like them, regard them. And for my selfe, if I heare
you like well of them, when I meet next with the Poste, it
may be I will cast about with him for one of them: till
then, fearing to be too tedious in this Letter, least you like
the worse of that which followeth, I rest, as I haue reason.

Your louing friend,

Nicholas Breton.



A Poste with a madde Packet of Letters.

A Letter of comfortable aduise to a
Friend,



Honest Alexander, I heare thou art of late fallen into an extreame melancholie, by reason of the suddaine departure of Parmella out of this life: for thy sake I am forie thee hath left her passage on this earth, though being too good for this world, shee be surely gone to a better: now, if thy mourning could receiue her from death, I could willingly beare part of thy passion: but when it doth her no good, and thy selfe much hurt, let not a wilfull humor lead thee into a wofull consumption. I thou knowest shee is senselesse in the graue, and wilt thou therefore be witlesse in the world: Say thy loue is extreame, and let me beleue it, wilt thou therefore depprue nature of reason: God forbid it: Well, thou knowest I loue thee, and in my loue let me aduise thee, not to goe from thy selfe, with an imagination of what was, to loose that which is: because shee is in heauen, wilt thou bee in hell: or if shee be halfe an Angell, wilt thou be more then halfe a Diuell: Oh spend thy spirit to a better humor: let not the remembrance of her perfection, vsue thee into imperfections: nor make thee hatefull to other, by seeing the unhappinesse in thy selfe. Oh let not fancie shewe folly in thee, howsoeuer vertue deserued honour in her: Leave thy solitarie humor, and come and lue with me, wee will deuise some good meanes for the remedie of this melancholy: In the meane time, make not too much of it, leaue it proue to a madnesse: Loe thy selfe, & beleue
thy

The Contents of this Booke.

- A Letter of comfortable aduise to a freind, and his answere.
A Letter of aduise to a young Courtier, and his answere.
A mournfull Letter to a brother, and his answere.
A Letter of a zealous husband to his wife, and her answere.
A Letter of kind complements to a freind, and his answere.
A Letter of loue to a Gentlewoman, and her answere.
A Letter of scorne to a coy dame, and her answere.
A Letter to a fowle Dowde, and her answere.
A Letter for the preferring of a seruant, and the answere.
A Letter of counsell to a friend, and his answere.
A Letter of comfort to a sister in sorrow, and her answere.
A Letter of counsell from a kind father.
A kind answer of a louing Sonne.
A Marchants Letter to his Factor, and his answere.
A Letter of challenge, and the answere.
A merry letter, or newes of complaints.
The answere of the Laugh.
A Letter to a friend for newes, and his answere.
A dissuading from marriage, and the answere.
A kind Letter of a Creditor for mony.
The Debtors answere.
A Letter of newes, and the answere. 32
A Letter of perswading to marriage, and his answere.
A Letter of vkindnesse vpon a deniall of a curtesie, and his answere.
A Letter to an vnthankfull person, and his answere.
A Letter to laugh at, after the old fashion of loue to a maide,
and her answere.
A Letter from a Father to his Son, and the answere.
A Letter to a friend familiar, and the answere.
A Letter to a familiar friend, and the answere.
A Loue Letter, and the answere.
To a familiar friend, and the answere.
A Letter of loue to a faire Mistresse, and her answere.
Roger to Margery his sweete-heart, and her answere.
From a Yeoman in the Countrey to his Son in London, and the answere.
A Letter vpon ordinary causes, and the answere.
A Letter to a friend for dispatch of businesse, and the answere.
A Letter of loue betwixt Rinaldo and Lorina, and the answere.
His replie, and her answere.
A familiar Letter to a friend in the Countrey, and his answere.
A Letter from a Father to his Son at the Vniuersitie, and the answere.
To his deare and onely beloued Mistresse Susan Pearle.

A Packet of Letters.

thy friend, & what is in me, to do thee good, command as thine owne: glad I would be to see thee, as he who did intirely loue thee, and so desirous to heare from thee, to the Almighty I leaue thee. Farewell.

Thine as his owne.

D. F.

His Answer.

Kinde Frank I haue receiued thy friendly Letter, and note thy careful loue: but pardon me, if I do not answer thee to thy liking: Alas, how can he truly iudge of li e, that neuer kindly was in loue: or know how soundly to help a sorrow, that neuer inwardly felt it? Reading makes a scholler by rule: & obseruation I know both much in the perfecting of Art: but experience is that which toucheth knowledge to the quick. My mistress beauty was the Moone: whose vertue gaue light to the hearts eye, nor her wisdom, an ordinary wit, which put reason to his perfect understanding: & for her graces, are they not written among the vertuous? Thou sayest wel, she was too heauenly a creature to make her habitati on this earth, & is it not then a kind of hel to be without her in the world? Imaginations are no games, where substances are the objects of the senses, while the eye of memory is neuer weary of seeing. Oh how it Frank, thinke thou hast not liued, that hath not loued, nor canst liue in this world to haue such a loue to die in: It is a dull spirit that is fed with oblivion, and a dead sense that hath no feeling of loue: thinke therefore what was to with me, & my selfe as nothing without the crying of that something, which was to me as all in all. Is not the presence of an Angel, able to raiue the sight of a man? And is not the light of Beauty the life of loue? Leaueth then to burthen me with imperfections in me so, row, for her want whose presence was my paradise, & whose absence is my worlds hel: thou dost misconstrue my good, in languishing for her lacke, & knowest not my heart, in thinking of a w other comfort: so Frank let it suffice, though I loue thee, I cannot forget

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forget her: and though I liue with thee . yet will I die for her:
haue patience then with my passion, till time better temper my
affection, in which most deuoted to thee of any man liuing, til I
see thee, which shall be as shortly as I well can, I rest.

Thine as thou knowest, D. E.

A Letter of aduise to a yong Courtier.

M^P good cousin, I heare you are of late growne a great
Courtier, I wish you much grace, & the co:inuing of your
best comfort: but for that your yeares haue not had time to see
much, & your kindnes may hap to be abused, let me intreat you
a little now and then to looke to that which I tell you: keepe
your purse warily, and your credit charily: your reputation va-
liantly, and your honour carefully: for your friends, as you
find them, vse them: for your enemies, feare them not, but looke
to them: for your loue, let it be secret in the bestowing, & discreet
in the placing: for, if fancie be a wanton, wit wil be a foole: for
not Ladies for they are wo:thy to be loued, but make not loue
to many, lest thou be beloued of none: if thou hast a saucer, bee
not proud of thy fortune, but thinke it discretion to conceale a
contentment: goe neat, but not gay, lest it argue lightnesse, and
take heed of lauish expence, lest it beggar thy state: play little, &
lose not much: vse exercise, but make no toyle of a pleasure:
Read much, but dull not thy braine, and conferre but with the
wise, so shalt thou get vnderstanding. Pride is a kind of copnes,
which is a little too womanish, and common familiaritie is too
neere the Clothe for a Courtier: but carry thy selfe euen, that
thou maifest fall on neither side: so will the wise commend thee,
& the better for: affect thee: but let me not be tedious, lest it may
perhaps offend thee: and therefore as I liue, let it suffice I loue
thee. And so wishing thee as much good, as thou canst wish to
be wished, in prayer for thy health, and hope of thy happinesse, to
my bittermost power, I rest, in affectionate good will.

Thine euer assured, H. L.

A Packet of Letters.

His Answer.

Sweet Cousen, I thinke you haue either some Court in the Country, or els you are much studied in the Courtier, that you can set downe such rules as are no lesse worthy the reading then obseruing: beleeue me, they shal be my best leisures studies, and in my daily courses my counsellors, my solicitors in loue, & my iudges in he no: my guiders in greatest hopes, and my admonitions in greatest dangers: for your paines in the, I thanke you, and for your kindnes, I loue you: your care of me, I see by them, and wil not unkindly forget them. I must confesse, I find courtiers close people, and labies strange creatures, and loue so idle an humour, that I am afraid to lose time in it: but the better by your aduise I hope to carrie a hand ouer it. For apparell, I wil keep my skint, and care for no fond fashion: and for exercise, nature is so giuen to ease, that good qualities are almost out of vse: and for vertue, poore Lady, shee is scarce able to liue with her pension: but for studie, I haue little time, so much company with dralwoeth me: and for a booke, next the Bible, your Letter shal be my Libzary. And thus smiling at such Guls, as think no grace, but in a gay coat, no: wit, but in a scale test, noting many a beggar like a king, and many a Lord like a poore gentleman, seeing the truth of Salomon, in his conclusion of all earthly efforts: that all vnder the sunne is vanitie: meaning not to be a seruant to a base humour, no: to reach higher then I may holde fast: in thankfull kindnesse for thy carefull Letter, and faithfull affection to thy worthy selfe, wishing thee so neere mee, that I might neuer be from thee, I rest.

Thine, what mine owne. N.B.

A mournfull Letter to a Brother.

God brotter, the miserie of my home life, & crofines of my cruel fortune, and the unkindnes of my vnnaturall kinne, haue made me so wearie of this world, that I long for nothing but my latestt houre, and yet loath to dispaire of Gods mercies, willing to take any good course for my commodity, I haue of late

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I am perswaded by some of experience in their travels, into those parts, that my travell into the lowe Countries would bee much to my commoditie, as well for my language, as my skill in such traffique, as I would make use of in those places: but my state being so down the wind, that I know not how to get by the weather, having no stocke to lay out, to give mee hope to bring in, I will even set by my rest upon my resolution of fortune, and thrust my selfe into some place of service, where I will either win the horse, or lose the saddle: if I die mercy is my comfort: if I live desert is my hope: but to the helping forth of this my sorrowne spirit, good brother put to your hand: offering your selfe, that I will not live to be ungrateful: for as my heart toucheth you, my soule shall pray for you, & when I have time to see you, I will not be from you. And thus agrieved to charge you, receive more meaning to trouble you, beseeching God to inable mee to requite you, in the true love of a naturall brother: I rest.

Yours as mine owne. N. B.

His Answer.

Dear brother, as I grieve at your crosses, so would I could as well procure your comforts. But my state much inferior to my will, makes me unable to satifie your expectation: and yet will I hurt my selfe, rather then you should perish: for you shall receive by this bearer, what I am able, and more, as I shall be better able. But touching your courses for the low countries, I feare your traffique will be but little gainfull, the wars so ease by the wealth of the countrie: and for your intent touching armies, I feare your forwardnes is too great for your experience. Yet doe I so farre allow of your good mind herein, as I would lesse grieve to heare of your honorable death abroad, then see your discontented life at home: and therefore for winning the horse, or losing the saddle, leave that to Gods blessing, who will bestow honor as it shall please his divine providence: but good brother, have patience with thy crosses, attend morrice for thy efforts, and have a care of home: howsoever thou farest abroad: I know thy mind is great, but take heed of pride, lest it be a bar

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to all thy fortune, and overthow of all thine honoꝝ: I see thou art weary of the world, make then thy way towards heauen, that God, who hath tried thee with calamities, may blesse thee with eternall comforts. In hope whereof willing in all I can to helpe thee, praying hartely for thee, with my unfained hearts loue to thee, vnto the Lord of heauen I leaue thee.

Thy louing brother D. S.

A Letter of a Icalous husband to his wife.

VVile, in as much kindnesse as I can, I aduise you to leaue such courses, as are neither to your credite, noꝝ my contentment: you know much company, causeth many occasions of Idle speeches, and young men are not in these daies, giuen to speake the best of their kind friends: trifles and toyes, were better refused, then accepted, and time idly spent, byings but beggery, oꝝ a woyle blot: of all the birds in the field I loue not a Cuckeoe in my house: truly I do not dissemble with you, your light behauiour doth much dislike mee, and how glad I would be to haue it reformed, you shall knowe when I see it. Shall I make you fine to please an other, and displease my selfe: Shall I leaue you my house to make an hospitalitie of ill felowship: Fit me not so with the foole, how euer you feed your selfe with a soule humoꝝ: Make of such acquaintance, as gaine you nothing but discredit, and make much of him that must as well winter you as sommer you: Look to your house, haue a care o-uer your childꝝen, set your seruants to worke, and haue an eye to the maine chance: leaue tatleng gossips, idle busines, vaine-headed fellows, and needlesse charge, so will God blesse you, and the world will thine with you, your neighbours speake well of you, and I shall truly loue you. And thus hoping that you will by this my secret admonition, haue a care of your good carriage, I rest in hope of your well doing.

Your louing husband T. F.

Her

A Packet of Letters.

Her cunning Answer.

Husband with as much patience as I can, I haue read ouer your vnwise Letter, wherein Jealousie keeps such a stirre that loue doth but laugh at such Tolences: much company doth as alway idle thoughts, and for fooles it is good to be afraid of had I wist: All thoughts beget ill speeches, and an old dog bites sozer then a yong whelp: for beggerie let it fall vpon the slothfull, I know how to worke for my liuing: and for blots, speake to scribblers, for I haue no skill in writing. Now for the bird to answer you with the Beast: I thinke a Calse in a Closet, is as ill as a Cuckoe in a Cage: If I were sullaine, you would sure suspect my humors, & do you mislike my merry behaviour? wel your credit may be desoymed, in being so longfullie informed, to haue me so suddenlie reformed. My finenesse is your countenance, and my conuersation your credit: and therfore do you shake off your lowlye humors, I will make choise of better company your house will stand fast, if it fall not, and your children quieter then their Father: your seruants earne their wages, and the maine chance is nicked well enough: Women must talke when they meete, and men not be scoyned, though not entertained: and hee that keepeth a house must seeke to defray the charge, And so hoping that you will leaue your Ielousie, and thinke of some matter of moze worth, as carefull of my cartage, as you of your credit meaning to do as well as I can without your teaching, and as well, as if you were at home, I rest.

Your too much louing wife, I. F.

A Letter of kind complements to a Friend.

Vhere I loue much I speake little, for affection hath small pleasure in ceremonies: your kindnesse I haue found, my desert I dare not speake of, least it moze offend my selfe to thinke on, then you to looke on: but since you haue made me happy in your acquaintance, let me not too long lacke

B

your

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your company, so; though I live among many good neighbors, yet doe I much want the comfort of so good a friend. by which I should not only gaine the vse of time, but find the profit of my desire: which toying issue with your humors, cannot but so concure with your contentment, that if there be a paradise on earth, I hope to find it in the faire passages of our loues, which grounded on vertue, & growing in kindnes, cannot choose but be blessedly fruitfull. In briefe, til I see you, I will mourne: and if not the sooner, I shall languish: so; my wishing & want cannot be satisfied with absence: hasten therefore your coming, and make your own welcom: so; what I haue or am, enter into the roble of your possession, where, in the freehold of my loue, I assure the substance of my life. And so leaving complements, to tongue spirits in the truth of an honest heart: I rest

*Yours, as you doe and shall euer
know me, N.B.*

His Answer.

So; I haue receiued your kind Letter, and I find you very fine at your corner: you will speake, and say nothing: be eloquent in plainnesse: but you must not speake in the cloudes, to them that are acquainted with the spoone: and say what you will, I must beleue of my selfe what I list: so; indeed, I knowe mine owne vnworthines, of your commendation, in which, I will rather beare with your affection, then bee conceited with your opinion. Yet, not to be either disdainfull, or vngratefull, bee not so far deuiued in my disposition, that wherein my presence may pleasure you, I will answere you with mine absence, no; long delay your expectation: so; excuse, is but cold kindnes, and too much haste is not fit: therefore as soone as I conveniently can, I assure you, you shall see mee, and in full measure with your affection find me, to the vttermost of my power, rather in action then profession, during life: in faire weather or solwe.

*Yours as mine owne. W. R.
A Let-*

A Packet of Letters.

A letter of loue to a Gentlewoman.

Faire Mistresse, to court you with eloquence, were as ill as to graue you with grosse humors: let it therefore please you rather to beleue what I write, then to note how I speake: for my heart being fired in your eyes, hath bowed my seruice to your beauty: in which finding reasons admiration, can thinke but of nature in her perfection: in which, being rauished about it selfe, craue: h of your fauor to be instructed by your kindnes: I meane no further then in obedience to your commandemēt: for if I be any thing my selfe, it shall be nothing more then yours: and lesse then nothing, if not yours in all. I coulde commend you aboue the skies, compare you with the sun, or set you among the stars figure you with the Phoenix, imagine you a Goddess: but I will leaue such weake praising fictions, & thinke you onely your selfe, whose vertuous beauty, and whose honozable discretion in the care of a little kindnes is able to command the loue of the wise, & the labors of the honest, with the best of their endeours in the happinesse of your imployment, to seek the height of their fortune: thinke not therefore I flatter you in hope of fauor, but honour you in the desert of worthinesse: in which if you will vouchsafe to entertaine the seruice of my affection, what you shall find in my loue, I will leaue to your kindnesse to consider. In the care of which comfort, crauing pardon to my presumption, I rest humbly and wholly.

Yours directed to be commanded E.W.

Her Answer.

Sir I haue heard schollers say, that it is Art to conceale Art and that vnder a face of simplicitie, is hidden much subtiltie: of which, how sillie wemen note to bee afrayde, I will leaue to wise men to consider. And though I cannot in fine nor stile teames, encrease the limoz of your writing yet after a plaine and homely fashion, I will entreat you to accept

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accept of my writing: Perfection and corruption, cannot meete together in one subject, and therfore my imagined beauty, being but a shadowe of deceit, belaeue not your eyes, till they haue a better speculation: and so; the inward parts of commendations I am perswaded, that wit is not woorth any thing, y is o:aloue into admiration of nothing: onely this, not unkindly to requite your good thoughts of little woorth, leauing fictions to idle fantasies, let me intreat you not to mistake your figures, & to honor a better substance then my vnwoorthy selfe. And yet, so farre to assure your desert of my contentment, that wherein I may conveniently countervaille the care of your kindnes, excuse my indiscretion, if I faile of my desire: in which, wishing you more happinesse, then to be commanded by my vnwoorthinesse, I rest as I may.

Your louing poore friend, M.W.

A Letter offcorne to a coy Dame.

Mistresse Fubbes, if you were but a little faire, I see you would be mightily proud, & had you but the wit of a gosse you would surely hiss the gander: but, being with as bad qualities as can be wished, as rich as a newe shorne sheepe, I hope, fortune is not so mad, as to blesse you further then the beggar: It is not your holyday face put on, after the illfaoured fashion, can make your halfe Rose, but ougly in a true sight: and but that you are exceedingly beholding to the Tailor, you might be set vp for the signe of the Sea-crabbe. Now for your parentage, to helpe out the hope of all the rest, when the tinkers son, and the Coblers daughter met vnder a hedge at the milking of a Bull, within forty weeks after, what fell out you know. Now not too plainly to lay open the soule members of a filthy carthasse, but as patiently as I can to keepe Decorum, in your description, let me tel you, that all this and much more, being true in your disgraces, I cannot choose but maruell, that you mourne not to death in imagination, to thinke, that a monster in nature, can haue any grace in reason: but, let it be as it is. I haue
but

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but lost a little breath in talking to a deafe eare, soz I meane to take nomoze traucell to the subiect of so ill an obiect: & therefore meaning to make my farewel, and beginning with you, both at one instant, leauing you to loath your selfe, as one, whom no creature can well be in loue withall: soze that I euer saw you, and neuer moze intending to trouble you. In recompence of your course entertainment, I rest in all kindnes: this present and allwaies.

Yours as much as may be. T. L.

Her answer.

MAfter Swash, it is not your hussy rusly can make me afraid of your big looks: soz I saw the play of Ancient Pistol, where a cracking coward was wel cudgeld for his knaue-ry: your rayling is so nere the raskal that I am almost ashamed to bestowe so good a name as the rogue vpon you: but for modesties sake, I will a litle sozbeate you, & only tell you, that a hanging looke, and a hollow heart, a cunning wit, & a corrupted conscience, make you so fit a mate for the diuel, y there is no chrystan will desire your company: now soz your state, it is much vpon fortune, which brings many of your fellows to a deadly fall, when the paine of their heads is only healed with a halter: and soz your linage, when the Beare-wards are, and the hang-mans moky met together on a bay moule, what a whelp came of such a litter, let the world iudge. I say nothing: now soz your stumpy feet, and your lame hand, suting kindly with your wite necke, who would not make of their eyes, that could indure the sight of such a picture? now, your welth being but a few woordes, which you haue almost all spent in idle humors hoping that the Coytes will not quarrell with the Crabbe, and that when you haue slept vpon your Ale, you will get a medicine for your madness, till the Woodcocke doe tell you how the Dawcocke hath caught you, leauing further to thinke on you, moze then utterly so loath you, glad that your entertainmet was so much to your discontentment: In full measure with your malice, I rest

Yours as you see. A. W.

C

A Letter

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A letter to a foule Dowdy.

Mistresse, I heare that you thinke your selfe faire, but you are much deceiued: for the Curriers oyle, is but a course kind of painting: and for witte, how farre you are from vnderstanding, the wise can tell you: now, for qualities, where you learned the I know not, but if you could leaue the, (twere well: I wonder not a little, what madnes hath possessed your braines that you can make so much of your selfe: are your eyes your owne? or are they so sealed they cannot see? get you to your prayers: leaue making of you: for age & euill fauor, had neede to be helped with a good purle. I heare you studie musicke, indeed when an Owle sings, the Nightingale will hold her peace: but for shame learne not to dance, for a barrel can let tumble: but if you would vse a medicine for your teeth, you might be the better to speake with in a morning: what ails you to buy a ffauncer: cept it be to hide your face? and till your hands bee whole, you should weare but dogges leather for your gloves: In truth you abuse your selfe, that you keepe not your chamber, for none sees you but laughes at you, or at least lotheth to looke vpon you: be therefore content to do as I wish you, speake with none but by Atturney, leaue the painter to better pictures, & rather grieue at nature for framing of you, the think of any thing that may help you: your goods bestow on me for my counsel, and make sate to Death for your comfort. And thus hoping that beeing wearie of your selfe, you will hasten to your graue, I end.

Your as you see. H.I.

Her Answer.

She you may thinke your selfe wise, but you do not shew it: for railing words, are y worst testimonies of a good wit: for good qualities I thinke you know them not, nor can goe from the euill: but for madnesse, I thinke it: so: teth best with your humor. For the helpe wherof, it were good that you were let blood in the braine: but for ill sight, who is so blind as boloe Baparde, that

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that will not see his owne folly: my prayers I will not forget to God, to blesse me from such soule spirits on the earth: & so I loue more then Charity, I hold you the furthest off in my thought: not knowing your powert, I woder you wil speake of a curse as so: an ill fauored face, go to Parith garden to your good brother: indeed your Croidon sanguine, is a most pure complexion but so: your Tabacco it is good purge so: your reuome: so: my fan it kepes me sometime from the sight of such a vizard, as your good face: and so: my handes, I kepe my nallies on my fingers, though you cannot kepe the haire on your head: not so: laughing at soles, you are prouided so: a Corcombe, and so: loathing an ill countenance, let the hangman draw your picture: be therefore contented to be thus answered, speake wisely, or holde your peace, and be not busy with your betters, lest you know the nature of bad I wist: so, hoping that you wil be so weary of the world, that you will hang your selfe so: a medicine, to heal your wits of a melancholy, I will bequeath you a halter vpon free-coll, at your pleasure: and so I rest.

Your friend for such a matter. F. P.

A Letter for the preferring of a Seruant.

SP, knowing your necessarie vse of a good seruant, and remembering your late speech with me touching such a matter I thought god to commend vnto you in that behalfe the bearer hereof W. T. a man whose honest secrets, and careful diligence vpon a reasonable trial, will surely make profe of his sufficiencie his parentage is not base, nor his disposition vile, but in all parts requisite in one of his place: such a one, as I am perswaded will fit your turne: if therefore at my request you will entertain him I doubt not but you will thanke me for him: so I was glad to get him for you and hope to heare he will much content you: and thus loth to trouble you with longer circumstances, leaving his seruice to your good regard, and my loue, to your like commendement, in affectionate god will, I rest.

Your ever assured. N. B.

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The answer.

Sir, I have received both your Letter and the bearer, both which I will make much of for your sake: for in the one I will often see you, and in the other remember you: your commendation of him, argueth your knowledge, a sufficient warrant for his worth, which I will as kindly, as thankfully thinke on: his countenance I like well, and his speech better, and for the performance of my expectation, am the better perswaded of his discretion: where I see you, I shall know how I like him: in the meane time, he shall find that I will love him: for all things necessarie for his present use, I find him sufficiently furnished: but if I finde him want, it shall be soone supplied. So thanking you for sending him and wishing you had come with him, remaining your kind debter till a good occasion of requitall, with my hearty commendations, I commit you to the Almighty.

Your very loving freind, R. T.

A Letter of counsell to a friend.

My best approued, and worthiest beloued Philo, I hear by some of late come from Venice, that seeme to be somewhat inward in thy acquaintance, that thou art of late fallen into an amorous humor, especially with a subject of too much unworthinesse: a newes, that (knowing thy spirit) I coulde hardly beleue, that vpon solemne affirmation, I was so; to heare: for beauty, without wealth, is but a beggarly charme, and honour without vertue, is but a title for a while: hath she a glib tongue it is pittie she hath no better wit, is she wittie: it is a sorrow, it is no better bestowed: for the craft of one woman, is the confusion of many a man: both she say she loues thee: beleue her not: nay, both she loue thee: regard if not: so it is a iewell of so little worth, as will giue but losse in the buying: I feared the plague had taken holde of thy lodging: but thou art peppered with a world of infection: thy studie is infected with idleness, thy braines with

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with dizziness, and thy spirit with madness. Oh leaue these fol-
lies thinke loue but a dream, and beauty a shadow, ere folly a
witch, and repentance a misery: wake out of thy sleepe, and call
thy wittes together, be not setted with an humor, nor slave to
thy selfe: will: leaue courting of a Curtizan, and keepe thy breath
for a better blast: saue thy purse for a better purpose, and spend
thy time in more profit, let not the wise laugh at thee, and the
honest lament thee for my selfe, how I grieve for thee, I would
I could tell thee: but let thus much suffice thee: beleeue no-
thing that she saith, care for nothing that she doth, nor giue her
any thing that she wants, see her, but to purge melancholy, talk
with her, but to sharpen witte, giue her, but to be rid of her co-
pany, and vse her but according to her condition, so shalt thou
haue a hand ouer those tumors, that would haue a head ouer thy
heart: and be maister ouer thy senses, by the vertue of thy spirit
other wise, Will hauing gotten the bit in his teeth, wil runne a-
way with the bridle, and Reason being cast off, may neuer sit
well againe in the saddle, but why doe I vse these perswasions
for the remoue of thy passions: If thou be soundly in, thou wilt
hardly get out: but if thou bee ouerthors, thou maist be saued frō
drowning: well, whatsoeuer I beare, I hope the best, but to a-
void the worst, I haue presumed out of my loue, to send thee the
fruit of my affection. In which, if my care may do thee comfort
I shall thinke it a great part of my happiness howsoeuer it bee,
I commit the consideration to thy kindnesse. And so till I beare
from thee, which I daily long for: I rest.

Thine as his owne.

N. B.

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His Answer.

Gentle Millo, I haue receiued thy most kind & carefull letter, a messenger of thy most honest loue, who hath told me no lesse then I wholly beleue: that loue in idleness, is the very entrance to madness: but yet, though I will thinke on thy counsel, give me leaue a little, to go on along with conceit: where of let me tell thy my opinion. Beauty without wealth is little worth, but being a riches in it selfe, how can it bee poorely valued: and honour, being but the state of vertue, how can you plucke a tittle out of her title? the tongue is the instrument of wit, and wit the approuer of discretio: where if Reason be grabled, nature may be admired: now for wordes they haue their substance, and loue is not to be abused: so; it is a Jewell well knowne, that is worthy his price: infections are euery where and iealousie a most cruel plague: but rid thy selfe of that disease and feare not my health in the other: reconceit is a kinde of bizinesse, which worse tormented then with idleness, is troubled with too strong a madness, but he that is unwise had need to be reformed, and he that laughes at an imperfection, may fall himselfe vpon the fool: now for a mad dreame, or an imagined witch a coniectured sleepe, or an intreated waking, I must confesse they are pretty humors, and wil thinke of their errors: now for sotteing and slavery, & for courting in linauery, bee perswaded that time wil imploie my purse to a better purpose, then to grieue not for mee but onely loue me, and let that suffice mee: and for thine aduice in seeing, talking, and giuing, feare not the had: I will of my follie: for he that is maister of himselfe, shall not neede to his Distresse, and therefore hee that cannot ride, let him leaue the saddle: for Reason hath a power ouer Wit, where Wit is but a seruant to Nature: in the certainty of which course, intending so to lay my hand on my heart, that I will feare no heins on my head, with many thanks for my kind perswasions, hoping thou wilt take no exceptions at my constructions, intreating thee to beleue of me no more then thou needest, and to loue

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loue me as thou doest, in the faith of that affection, that holds
thee deare to my loue, I rest during life,

Thine obliged and diuoted W. B

A Letter of comfort to a sister in sorrow.

DEARE sister, I heard lately of your husbands departure for
the Indies, when with no little sorrow I consider your
heavy case: in which finding his wants to bee grievous, &
your friends cold in comfort, I could not chuse, without unkind-
nes, but remember these few lines of my loue vnto you: . know
your state is weake, how faire soeuer you make your weather
but the moze is your patience worthy honoz, that can so nobly
conceale your discontentments: so; my selfe, I would I were a-
ble to do you good, but what I have or can procure, shall not
faile to do you pleasure, but if your mind be too great to scope,
to be beholding, what am I able to do, take a tuty in my bro-
thers loue: good sister therefore be of good cheere, and put your
care vpon me, I will see you often, and loue you euer, so; a crea-
ture of your worthinesse, is seldome found in your sex: that for
her husbands loue will aduenture the state of her living, your
chilozen are not many, but such as are shall be mine. and you to
me as my selfe, take therefore as little thought, & as much com-
fort as you can, no doubt but God that trieth his seruants, will
blesse them, hope then of my brothers happy returne, and till
he come command me, shortly Godwilling you shall see mee, in
the meane time let me entreat you kindly to accept this little
token of my greater loue, which is but assurace of a beginning
of my affections neuer ending, in which predicament of true
friendship, I rest euer assured.

Your louing sister

E. W.

Her

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Her answer.

Sweet sister I have receiued your kind letter and louing token, for both which, I am your thankefull debtoz, but touching which husband, though his wants were grieuous, yet to want him is my greatest sorrow, for in the stay of his loue, was the state of my liuing, I am soz that you know my weaknesse and wish it but in strength to answer your kindnesse: but good sister, though I am willing to conceal my crosses, to be beholding to so honourable a spirit, I count it not the least of my happinesse. Therefore, though I had deuoted my selfe to solitarinesse in his absence, your company shall be to me: as light in darkenesse, and noting the nature of your kindnes, will euer bee beholding to your loue: come then to me when you will: & command me what you wil, for I wil be as good & you wil, my children are my worlds toyes, and my heart telwels, in whose faces I will behold their father, in whose loue I will spend my life, so in a merr ygo soyle, grieuing for his absence, & wishing your presence, praying for his happy returne, your health and mine owne patience, that in too much passion of affection, I fall not by on indiscretion, with most hearty thankefull loue, I commend my life to your commandement.

Yours affectionately bound.

E. G.

A Letter of loue to afaire Mistresse.

Faire Mistresse, to trouble you with a long circumstance, I might perhaps feare you with the losse of time, & to make an end ere I begin, might argue little care in my conceits, but to auoid both suspicions, let me a little entreat with your patience, to persue in a few words, the sum of a long tale, in which y^e truth of loue, to the latestt houre of death, protesteth y^e top of his life

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life, but in the fruite of your fauour, of which the thought of his vnworthinesse, doth too much shew his unhappinesse. Time makes me too briefe, but in your wisdom is my hope of vnderstanding, that in my triall you may trust mee, and by desert esteeme me: in which, if I deceiue your expectation, let mee die in the misery of your disdain. Thus not to flatter you with a faire stile in the state of your worthy commendation, beseeching to be commaunded by the kind care of your discretion, in the bands of auowed seruice, I humbly rest.

Yours alwaies assured,

R. O.

The Answer.

Sir, as I would be loth to be thought proud, I woulde as willingly bee sounde idle: either to beloue too well of my selfe, or, not to haue a respect of other: Truth is wisdom masked with smooth wordes, and loue is not byed but vpon great contentment: your liking may be greater then my desert, and so alter vpon a better consideration: but mistake not your happinesse in my fauours vnworthinesse, where the best of my commandement, may be the least of your contentment. Your consideration of time may excuse my shortnesse of writing, where in a worde you may vnderstand, that indeede I intend, that Truth is honourable in loue, and vertue the lastest ioy in affection: in which if I not misconstrue your conceit, I will answer the care of your kindnesse: in which, according to the due of desert, you shall find the effects of your desire. And so so; this tunc I rest.

Your poore friend,

A. T.

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A Letter of counsaile from a kind Father.

M^y deare sonne, you must not from your Father looke for
a flattering loue, nor take it unkindly that I suspect your
ill courses: for I haue passed the dangerous time that you
now are in, and haue hardly gone through the byers: and there-
fore in a zealous feare, from an inward care I cannot chuse but
giue you warning of what may preiudice your god. Beauty is
a bewitching object and wantonnesse is the ruine of wit: probi-
galitie quickly makes a poore man, and hee is oneie rich that
liues contented. But my good sonne about all things serue
God, and keepe a cleane conscience, passe not the limns of allea-
geance, nor build Castles in the aire, take heede of extremitie
for they are out of the course of discretion, and the fruite of igno-
rance perishes but the sorrow of repentance, young men may bee
witty, but sildome wise, and sometime though they bee a great
perfector of experience, yet obseruation is better then corrected
cunning. Experience is necessary vpon occasion, and hope is not a
mistake vpon desert: but Reason sometime is more regarded then
rewarded, where Will is too powerfull to be resisted. I heare
that you are much giuen to Alchymistry, it is a studie of great
charge to many, and profiteth few: yet I forbid you no good la-
bour, so that you loose not by the bargain. Use therefore a care
in the employement of your time, and where in my help may fur-
ther your good, seeke no other friende for your comfort:
for though I would not wish you to disdaine my kindnesse, yet
would I haue you as little as you may to bee beholding to any
man, for the probigall are commonly talkatiue, & the couetous
negatiue, and what a grieve it is to want, I pray God you ne-
uer know. Any qualitie in a mediocritie, I gladly allow you, but
let not your loue be carried away with any idle imagination. I
haue sent you an hundred Crownes, well may you vse them,
and when you need any more, send to me for them: for your affe-
ction touching marriage, I would it were bestowed as I could
wish it: howsoeuer it be, it shall be much amisse if I mislike it. I
haue

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hane sent you likewise a Horse, now and then to manage him
morning, but I pray you forbear to vse him as a hackney to
ride vp and downe the streets in idle humors. Conuerse with no
fooles, for you shall lose time with them: & take heed of knaues,
for there is much to be feared in them. Long not after newes,
least you bee guld with a Zeall: and take heed of drunkenesse
for it is a heauid humoz. Make much of thy money, & abuse not
thy friend: be careful of thy selfe, and forget not thy Father,
whose earthly loue is but in the hope of thy happiness, and whose
deadly sorrow would be to see thee do amisse. What shall I say
more to thee? thou knowest I loue thee, and onlie in my loue
am thus carefull ouer thee. Accept then my admonitions. and
ponder vpon the constraitions, they may hap to do thee good, but
harme they can do thee none: Use them therefore for thy best a-
uaile. After the terme, the vacation will call thee into the Coun-
try, where knowing thy Fathers house, thou maist make thine
owne welcome. Till wien, and alwaies, I will pray for thee, &
God will so blesse thee, that I may haue lov in thee.

Your loving Father. H.V.V.

A kinde Answer of a louing sonne.

MY deare father, as I will not flatter my selfe with your loue so can I not but say in your kindnes: whose careful counsailes within the compas of so few words, I will lock vp in my heart, as the best iewel of my life: for to serue God, is the duty of a Christian, and no longer let me liue then in the care of that comfort. A cleane conscience I finde like a cleane paire of shetes where the soule after labours may take a safe place of rest: to passe the limits of alleageance, meritis the losse of life, and hee is borne vnbhapp: that is vnnatural to his country: and atery Castles are but ma mouns imaginations: I know extreames are not durable, nor often profitable: and repentance a payment, that pincheth the heart of vnderstanding.

I find the instruction of the aged, to be the best directioⁿ of the
D 3 youthful.

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youthfull, & obseruation with experience to make the perfection of Art: the necessitie of Experience cannot bee avoided, but the hope of desert may be deceiued: for while Will stands for iudgement, there is no holding of argument: touching Alchymistry I heare much, but beleue little: and for the charge, I will not wasse your land, to make a new mettall: but if by my industry I can do good, I will take the benefit of Time: for qualities, I thanke your large allowance, the best means with labour to attaine them: for Teachers, are worthy their rewardes: to bee beholding: I leue not, & hate to be vngrateful: But as I followe not the proud gall, I haue little pleasure in the courtous: and for sole imaginations, I can vse them as fictions: for your crowns I humble thank you, and hope to bestow them to your liking: Your Horse will do me much pleasure, and cause mee to see you the sooner. For galloping the streets, it is like child: upon hobby-horses: but giddy heads haue such humors, that God knoweth what will become of them: for marriage, though the course be honourable, yet could I be content to forebeare it, though in the direction of my affection, I will be much ruled by your discretion: foales cannot vnderstand me, & knaues will but trouble mee: but from the company of such ill conditions, the Lorde of heauen deliuer me: good newes come neuer too soone, nor badde too late, and therefore as they are I will esteeme them: for drunkenesse neuer doubt me, for it is most loathsome to my nature and for my money, though it be my seruant, I will holde it as my good friend: for my friends, hee shall be my seife: but my Father my hearts loue, and my lifes comfort: in whose carefull admonitions, how kinde I find thy instructions, the obedience of my duty, shall make knowne to your contentment: the vacation is nere, and I will not be long from you, where finding you well, shall be my best welcome: so thinking my selfe best in the heauens, to haue so good a Father on the earth, beseeching God to make me to full in your eyes, by the graces of his mercies in prayer for your long health, with your hearts cuer happiness: In all humble thanks, I take my leaue.

Your obedient sonne, T W. .

A Mex-

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A Merchants Letter to his
Factor

AS I haue reposed trust in your care, I looke for your performance of my credit: your ability in managing such matters as I haue committed to your charge, I make no doubt of: and therefore hoping in your discretion to heare of my expected contentment, I will look by your next letters to heare of the summe of my desire: in the meane time let mee tell you, that I haue sent you ouer foure score broad clothes, and thirtie carxies with such other commodities as I thinke fit for your use in those parts, I pray you make your best market, & take heed of your Creditors: for I heare there are men reputed of great wealth, in suspicion to play banquerupts: haue therefore a care of your business, your trauels shall not be vnconsidered: your French Wines I heare this yeare are very small, & your Gaikoigne Wine very deare, Spices cheape: but you know your markets, and so I hope you will haue care in disbursing your money for it is hardly come by, and as this world goes, doth much in great matters: if there be any felowes of worth, acquaint mee with them, and in any wise, do not trouble me with vntruthes your Cousen tels me that you are in good regard with the Governour, for certaine clothes that you lately bestowed on him, he told me the cause and therein I commend your discretion: for sometime it is better to giue then to saue, when it turneth to advantage. In summe let this suffice you without further circumstance, you haue my loue, and my purse, I pray haue a care of them both: so till I heare from you I rest

Your loving Master,

W. H.

W 3

His

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His Answer.

SP: I beseech you mistrust not your trust: nor haue my feare of my care: for hauing both your loue & your purse, how can the one let me forget the other? No sir let you assured howsoeuer bankers play banquerout sure patrons will deceiue no credit: and touching such affaires as I haue in charge doubt not your expectation of my dispatch, your cloathes I haue receiued and like them very well, your Carries are very good, I woulde you had sent more of them, for they are much in request and well sold. I haue by god hap met with an hundredth Tunne of Galcoigne Clints upon a good market as you may know by my note. Pyunes are good, and good cheape, and therefore I haue set you the greater stoe of them, on the fatter you shall finde my marke, with two letters of your name. I haue sent you likewise, a Tunne of Cushiniles which I bought by a great chance the price you shall finde in my note with the rest. By the next Post you shall heare what I neede: in the meane time hauing no intelligence of worth, loath to trouble you with trifles, glad to performe that dutie that your kindnes hath bounde mee to, wishing to liue no longer, then to discharge the office of an honest care, praying for your long health, and euermore lasting happines: I humbly take my leaue,

Your faithfull seruant. C. B.

A Letter of Challenge.

Muzzonges are so many, as may no longer bee digested and your excuses so idle, as I will henceforth despise them: for your words are but winds, and therefore I am wearie of them: and therefore if you bee not of so cold a complexion that you dare not maintaine your reputation in the morning, in some fields a mile out of Towne, and bring with you such Armes as you do ordinarily carie: assigne your place, and houre, and faile not your appointment, that

God

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God the Judge of right, may determine of our wrongs, and the point of the sword may put a period to our discourses. Thus having blown ouer an idle paper, with a few last words of my content, answer me as I expect, or beare of me as it will fall out In haste. *Your enemy to the death.* T. P.

The Answer.

VVhat you haue written to me, I returne vpon your selfe, as loth to lose time in answere of such idleness, if you durst go alone, I would go with you, but let it suffice you that I know you, & therefore meane not to trust you, but being a friend with you, and I am readie for you come to my lodging as earlie as you will, and though I would be loath to beake a sweepe for you, yet I will take a little paine to answer you, and for the field we will cast lots for the place, where God & a good conscience, will quicklie determine the quarrell: but I feare, the point of the sword will make a comma to your cunning: which if it doe, you shall find what will follow, And so leaving further words, wishing you to be as good as your word, I end.

Yours as you mine. H. VV.

A merry Letter, or Newes of complaints

Honest George mine old schoolefellow, and kinde friend, I glad to heare of thy home quiet, helw euer I fare with my farre trauell, whereas thou writest vnto mee, for such Newes as this place yields, let me tell thee, that there are so many, and so few of them true, that I dare almost write none, only this vpon my knowledge I dare deliuer thee: that of late in this citie, there are a number of complaints. euerie honre in the day, but all to little purpose. The souldier complains either of peace or penurie: the Lawier either of lack of Clients, or cold fees: the Merchants of small trafficke, or ill fortune: the Tradesman of lack of chapmen: the labourers of lack of worke: the poore men of lack of charitie, and the rich men of lack of money the

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the these of the lack of booties and the hangman that his trees are bare: in bylese, if I should tell thee of all the complaints that I heare of, as wel among the Feminine, as Masculine gender, how some old women cry out of yong withists, and some yong wenches complaine of old misers: How some complaine of their customers, and some other of their neighbours, it were such a world of idle stuff, as would but trouble thee in the reading: but since their complaints are al to little purpose, for that souldiers are but for extremities, though honourable in their exploits, & Lawyers, are some troublesome except vpon agreement of controuersies, though iudges are worthe hono: in execution of iustice: merchants may beare with fortune, when their coffers are full of coine, though in respect of their traffick, they are the maintenance of the Common wealth, and Trades men may sell cheape, when their best wares are all vttered, though it is necessarie, that they be set on worke for the maintenance of the State, and labozers may rest, when their harvest is in, though it be needfull to set them to worke for the auoiding of idlenesse, beggers may hold their peace, whē they haue filled the patches of their profession, though it is not amisse to relieue them for the exercise of charitie, now the rich mē may shug their shoulders when they haue no vse for their bags, though sometime it bee requisite rather to be sparing, then prodigall, and for the these let him sigh till the hangman do helpe him, and for the hangman let him mourne, for he is sure the Diuell lies in waite for him, and therefore let the old mē all munch and the yong tittle mourne, I cannot help them, but as I heare of their complaintes, I haue written thee the contents, which beeing scarce worzh the reading, I leaue to thy worzh vsing. And so for that I haue no matter of worth, wherewith better to sit thine humo:, in as much kindnesse as I can, I commend myloue to thy commandment and so I rest

Thine ever as his owne. W. P.

The

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The answer of the laugh.

M^y good wag, I see trauell hath not so altered thine humors, but thou wilt euer be thy selfe with thy friends: for thy kind letter I thanke thee, and as kindly as I can, will requite thee: as you are there full of sorrow, wee are here full of mirth: for in euery place there is nothing so common as laughing: one laughes at another, the wise man laughes at the foole, to see the nature of his imperfections: & the foole laughes at the wise man, because nature lets him know none of his sorowes, the rich man laughes at the poore, to see the manner of his life: & the poore man laughes at the rich, to see the miserie of his care: the faire laughes at the foule, to see how they are dispised: & the foule laugh at the faire, to see how they are troubled: the honest laugh at the knaue, to see how he shifts in the world: and the knaue laughs at the honest, to see how his simplicity is abused. for particulars, how any one laughes at the other, either the old at the youtiful, or they at the aged, I dare say nothing: but wert thou here, and I had not the more cause of sorrow, we would laugh a little together, to looke at the laughter of this world: but they say, he may laugh that wins, at least til he losse againe: but the natures of their laughing are diuers, and very strange, for some laugh so loud that they are noted foolishly, some laugh so wide that they shame their mouths with lack of teeth: and some laugh so cunningly that they smother it by in a smile: but let them laugh til they be weary, it is a good world when men are merry. Which hoping thou art, so praying thou maist be, that when wee kinde meete, wee may commune better of these conceites, wishing thee all contentment, and my selfe the happinesse of thy good company, till I see thee, and encir I rest, one and the same.

Thine as thou knowest.

R. W.

C

A

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A Letter to a friend for newes.

Cuzen, I know you that liue abroad in the world, cānot but heare of newes every day, which we here in the countrey, would be glad now and then to be acquainted with: your labour will not be much in writing: & for your kindnes it shall not be vnrequited: we hear much murmuring of many things but little truth of any thing, but from you that know I would be glad to learne. That is a speech among some idle Astronomers, that the man in the moone hath fallen in loue with a star, and walking through the clouds, was almost drowned in the water: and that the tumbler of the Forrest haue spoiled a number of blacke Conies, so that Rabbits are so deare, that a poore man may be glad of a peece of mutton: I haue heard here with vs in these parts, that you of the citie are much troubled with a new disease: truly we haue reasonable good health, but that there are such plagues in diuers houses, what with thywed wiues, and euill husbands, stubborn children, and wicked seruants, that many honest men cānot liue in quiet with their neighbours. Though the spring be not very forward, yet there is great increase of many things, especially of children, which how they may answer the law, I will not greatly stand upon. Thus hauing no matter of moment, wherewith at this time to trouble you, entreating you that I may heare from you, I rest, in much affection.

Affectionally yours, R. T.

His Answer.

My good counsell, to answer your kind letter if there were any thing here worth the writing, I would not haue bin so long silent: but such are the occurrents in these places, as are either not worth the noting, or better vnspoke then written: for loue in youth is so full of idlenesse, and malice in age so malicious, that vertue is so hid in corners, that there is little or nothing

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nothing spoken of her account. For the man of the Spoon I leave him to wait on the Sunn but if he have a mind to any star I leave him to follow by twilight, for his watery element, since it is all in cloudes, let it hang in the aire, I will not meddle with his souing Astronomie. For Comies I am no warrner; therefore let them that have the keeping of the grounds, looke to their game: I have smal sport in such idlenesse, but for a pece of instruction a pong lambe is worth five old Comies, and he that is not glad of such a feast, let him fast for his dinner. For our new disease, it is with many men in the head, and waies in the tongue, servants grow great libertines, and children are sick of the parents: for neighbours, there is so much lone in the streets that there is almost none in the houses. and therefore besides other ordinary diseases, wee want no plagues to make vs looke into our sins. But God amend all, for one scarce mend another and therefore enreatig you to have patience with mee till the next wake, when you shall heare of the best newes that come to myh intes. I rest: in bounden good will.

Yours as mine owne. N.R.

A disswading from marriage.

SEVERE Cousen, I am sorie to heare that being so well at ease you will cosin your selfe of your quiet: for what of a worlde's hell. you will put your selfe in purgatorie with a wife: but if it may be that I speake in time, heare what I say: If she be faire it may breed iealousie, if soule, dislike, and change: if rich, take heed of pride: if poore, envie: if young, beware the wanton: if old, take heed of the Belshame: if wise, shee wil govern thee: if foolishly, she will set thee: how deare sooner shee love thee, she will soone me or other either crosse or flatter thee: therefore if thou wilt be ruled by a friend, let neither old nor pong, faire nor soule trouble thee: believe me as I have read. these are the properties of most wives to weaken strength, to trouble wit, to empurpur and to breed humors: but if I be deceived in my reading, or mine Author in his writing, either in altering your course

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course, or prouing your comfort, tel me your mind when wee meet. Til then, wishing you continuance of that quiet, wherein you now liue, or the true contentment of the best loue: learning to your discretion, the managing of your affection, I commit you to the Almighty.

Thine euer as his owne, T. W.

The Answer.

GOD couzē, I find your kindnesse aboue your knowledge, in mistaking Paradiſe for Purgatory: for a wiſe is the wealth of the minde, and the welfare of the hart: where the best iudgement of Reason findes discretions contentment. May be is a doubt: but what is, must be regarded, in which sense I am pleased: where youth with beautie, and wit with vertue, haue power to command, there kindnesse must obey. Doubtly I feare not, and wealth I seeke not: but it sufficeſh me to seeke no other fortune, for the summe of my worlde happines: where the avoiding of euill, & the hope of good, makes me know more comfort then you are able to conceiue, till you enter into that course, wherein the ioy of loue is the second blessednesse of this life. What shall I say, but that I know not what to say, to expreſſe the perfection of this pleasure, that puts downe all idle imaginations: from which, hoping to see thee remoued, when I see thee. Till then and euer, I rest.

Thine as thou knowest B. D.

A kind letter of a Creditor for money.

SP: I pray you take it not unkindly, that I write thus earnestly vnto you, for more necessity then will haue urged me vnto it: my money is not so much, & you wel able to discharge it: my losses by sea and ill Creditors by land, make me straine curſellie with my friends, for their good helpe in an extremitie, yet do I desire nothing but my due: but as I was ready to lend

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I would be glad to receiue: with that fullnesse of good will, that may continue our kindnes, I write not this, as doubting your discretion: but to intreat your patience, if your purse be not in tune: for were I as I haue bene, and hope to be, I had rather beare too long, then aske too soone, especially of so good a friend as I haue alwaies found of your selfe. Consider therefore of my case, & in your kindnes answer me. Time is precious & therefore least by disappointment, I be disurnished, & so perhaps discredited, I pray you speed your answer: which, howsoeuer shall be welcome, and therefore earnestly intreating you to helpe me now, that I may the better quit your kindnes hereafter, with many thanks for your great fauors, which cannot be forgotten to be deserved: I take my leaue, further at this time to trouble you, but will rest in what I shall be able cuer euer to pleasure you, to make you know how much I loue you

Your louing friend to comm. and. T. R.

The debtors Answer.

SINCE your request is so resonable, and your kindnes so much, that for a greater matter the your demand, if my purse were not in tune, I would straine my credit very far for you: beare then with my a little forgetfulness of my day, and thinke it no trouble to my patience, to be put in minde of my credit: your sea losses I am sorry for, and wish your recovery by land. Debtors that will not pay make creditors they cannot lent: but for my selfe, to make you know how much interest you haue in my affect on, let me tell you, that though by some vnexpected expenses, I am short of my hoped reckoning, yet vpon the receipt of your Letter, I haue bene thus carefull for you, your money I haue sent you, & as much more for so long time, I will lend you: which you shall receiue of this bearer, and in my letter, the day of payment: which if it may please you so much as I wish you I am glad I had it for you: howsoeuer it fall out, vse it to your owne discretion: and so far be alwayes assured of my loue, that

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my word and deed shall be all one in your comfort. And so leau-
ing ceremonious complements, in vnsained good will, I rest:
Alwaies to my bittermost power:

Yours as mine owne. D.W.

A Letter of Newes.

TO performe my promise in my last Letter, my kinde and
best Coujeer, you shal vnderstand, of such occurrents, as I
heare go current for truth: I heare there are certaineould pro-
ple, that speake much of Prophecies. where they set it downe
for a certaine rule that this yeare and many to come, hee that
wants money in his purse, and a friend in the court, may walke
in the country, and pick strawes for his comfort: for the law is
very dangerous for begging and Charitie is so cold. y the poore
must starue, rather then the rich will want. Old men that neuer
be pong againe in this world, and beauty in a young woman,
will not let her know her case. Honesty without wit, will die on
the soole, y craft without credit, will beare so little purpose. In
summe, there wilbe a great plague among the poore with lacke
of money, among fooles for lack of wit, and knaues for lack of
honestie: but it may bee Nature may alter her course in many
things. & Prophecies may fall out in contrarieties. Howsoeuer
it bee, welcome that comes in Gods name: and so hoping thou
louest no legerdemaine nor wilt be led away with blinde pro-
phecies, writing this only for exercise of a merry humour, I rest,

Thine what mine. P.R.

The answer.

SUCH idle prophets as you meet with haue such kinde of mat-
ter as you write of: but let the world wagge as it list, there
is not a truer wagge in the worlde then thy selfe: and were it
not, that I feare my letter wold come to light, I would answer
you

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you in your kind But to be short, let me tell you, that lawes are good to take order with such outlawes, as after pretigallitie put themselves vpon charity. And yet to crosse your rule of little experience, old men may haue yong humors, faire wenches put wise men to their wits: and honesty may thriue with a meane trade, when a crafty knaue may lose by his cunning broking. As for the plague, I feare me it is neuer from you: for if neighbors agree, yet their wises may fall out: & while the poore fret & the rich frown, there is little hope of health, where the world is so out of quiet. And therefore hoping that you haue wit enough to beware the knaue and the foole, and to make your choice of the best company, wishing your continuance of your good humour, with thanks for your waggish Letter, I rest, in our old league.

Yours as mine owne. R. VV.

A letter persvading to mariage

DEare cousin I do not a little wonder at your solitary life and more at your little care to match your selfe in marriage with some virgin woorthy your loue: will you leaue the world without memory of your name, your inheritance, to no issue of your owne honour, and runne a course of too little comfort: perthinketh that your knowledge of the diuersitie of varieties, should settle your content vpon some speciall vertue, what if some women be aged, some are youthfull, and some forward, other may be kind and some wanton, there are better stated: and some fullaine, some are louing, & there is none can fit your humor: God forbid, the law of nature, the law of Reason, the law of God doth will it, that loue breede increase by a vertuous continuation, which cannot be performed without the honor of his course. Bastards will be witnesse of their parents wickednes, when natural children are the top of their fathers: and a true louing wife, is woorth a thousand wild walkers, her care in the house, her kindnes at the table, & her comfort in the bed, are pleasures better conceiued then expressed: fall then a-
boud

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hoord with such a Bird, as you may hold for your Phoenix, and thinke thy mind at best liberty, when it is free from the hands of folly. In fine, let me intreat thee to make thy house a home, thy wife thy worlds love, and thy children thy earbes for: which as I hope thou wilt be glad to haue, I shall be glad to see. For good speed whereof in hartly prayer I rest.

Thy loving Conzen. R. W.

His Answer.

My kind Conze, I see you are better red then experienced for Batchellers wiues, and maidens children, are pretty things to play withal: but he that knows many dangers, will take heed of al. A wife is an euerlasting substance, which if it be not of y better nature, is a pittifull thing to meddle withall: for if it catch hold of the hands, it may put the heart to a sore paine: and the Phoenix is such a figure, as if I must find her in a woman, I fear me I must seeke a great way for her. For the lawes that you speake of, I yeeld to truth: but love is so mee an hmoor, that he seldome settles in a place, for Bachelards, I loue not the breed: and better children will do well when they come: For bedde and boord and those trickes, let them toy in them that haue them, when I find time I will thinke one them: in the meane time, moze at quiet in my lodging with a friend, then perhaps I may be at home with a wife, not for swearing marriage, nor poasting to purgatory, in stead of mistaken paradise: wishing thy prayers for my better happines, then louers idleness, and if I do marry to be kindly matched: I rest.

Thine as mine owne.

D. L.

A Let.

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A Letter of vnkindnesse vpon a deniall of a Curtesie.

If my deserts had not excēded my desire, I would haue hated the nature of my humoz, which leaues nothing lesse then to be too much beholding: my request was not much, and the grāt but easie: howsoeuer so; if falsly, the excuse may be cunningly framed: but though I conceiue vnkindnes in this course, I can rather grieve then be angry, so; I will mistrust my wit, till I see too much of my sorrow, & lose my friend, though I be plaine with his patience: be content therefore rather to let me tell you of my discontent then to couer a dissimulation, and to wish your better regard of my affection, which in denying a trifle, may lose a greater benefit: but not to go too farre in impatience, let me thus grow to an end: Friendship once grounded is not easily remoued: and therefore being assured of my loue, beare with my dislike; and wherein I may better pleasure you doubt not the ill requitall of vnkindnes, so; I can chide & not be angry, and better loue you then tell you so. And so intreating your reasonable answer so; my satisfaction, I rest, all displeasure set apart.

Your louing friend, N. S.

His answer,

Your humozous kinde of twisting, puts me to study so; an Answer: so; your anger without cause, may moue cause of anger: you know you might command what I am, and will you haue more? Conceit may be deceiued, and so kindnesse abused, and suspicion of impatience hath the left part of discretion. Excuses are idle among friends, and therefore words shalbe deferred till our meeting: when, seeing your owne fault you will not thinke amisse of your friend, grieve not then without cause, no; be carried away with conceit: and as you know my nature,

I

command

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command my loue, which is farre from the thought to make a friend beholding: be not discontent with a deniall, till you haue better reason of displeasure: but measure me with your selfe, and you shall find small cause of difference: if there be any, let kindnesse dispute it, reason confesse it, and patience heare it, so shall friends be themselves, and you and I shall not fall out. So hoping that you will satisfie your selfe with this answer, till we meet to talke further of the matter, I conclude with your kindnesse, and rest cuer.

Yours as you know. T. W.

A Letter to an vnthankfull person.

I Haue heard that a pynce sometime ordaining a punishment for all offences, left ingratitude to the Gods to plague, as past mans power to punish inough: the Tale may well bee true, considering the wilenesse of such a nature, as I think the like lieth not in the shape of man. Couldst thou not onely forget, but abuse my kindnes, and so make a monster of a wicked shadow: I could not haue beleued it, had I not too well proued it: But I wish you would leaue the humoz, least it make a loathsome nature: and though I will not reuenge a wrong vpon a subject of so much basenesse, yet will I learne to know the condition of so much wilenesse, and as well warne my friends from an enemy, as further abuse mine owne wit with so mistaking of a friend. In bryefe therefore, let me tell you as I know you, I regard you, and as I sound you, I leaue you, as one fit, if there lacked a Card, to put in the stocke for a wicked helpe. And so sorry to haue lost so much time to write to you, I wish at ytwo: so that knowes you to hate you.

Your enemy from the heart. D.M.

His Answer.

How strangelie men will write, that impatience both put out of order A god turne is lost, when it is cast in the reuelers teeth: and abuse misconceiued, can hardly bee well excused

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cused: consider better of what is done, then to yong the meaning of a god minde, and you shall finde without excuse, no true cause of displeasure: if the information of malice haue moued choller without indgement, y^e men must endure the miserie of euill fortune against my selfe I will confesse nothing, but refer time to decide all doubts, When Truth shall put the differences betwixt a shadow and a better substance. So leauing ill humours to like minds, and god thoughts to better natures, hoping to finde you your selfe, which will be farre enough from that you write: In spight of the Diuell, I commit you to God: and so rest
Your friend whether you will or not. D. R.

A Letter to laugh at after the old fashion
of loue, to a Maide..

After my hartie commendations, trusting in God that you are in god health as I was at the writing hereof, with my father my Mother, my brothers and sisters, & all my god friendes, thanks be to God. The cause of my writing to you at this time is that Ellen, I doe heare since my coming from Wakefield, when you know, what talke wee had together at the signe of the blew cocke, & how you did giue mee your hand and sweare that you would not forsake me for all the world, and how you made me buy a Ring and a Hart, that cost mee eighte pence, which I left with you, and you gaue me a Raphin to weare in my Hat, I thanke you, which I will weare to my dying day: and I meruaile if it be true as I hear, that you haue altered your minde, and are made sure to my neighbor Hoplins ponger sonne: truelie Ellen you do not well in so doing, & God will plague you for it, and I hope I shall liue & if I neuer haue you: for there are moze maides then Maulkin, and I count my selfe worth the whistling. And therefore praying you to write me your answer by this bearer my friend, touching the truth of all, how the matter standes with you, I commit you to God, from Callow Greene.

Yours true Louer. R. P.

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He

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Her answer.

TRuely Rodger, I did not loke for such a Letter from your hands, I would you should know, I scorn it: haue I gotten my Father and Mothers ill will for you, to bee so bled at your hands: I perceiue and you be so jealous already, you wold be some what another day, I am glad I find you, that you can beleue any thing of me: but tis no matter, I care not: sed me my Raphin, and you shall haue your Ring and your Hart, for I can haue enough, if I neuer see you moze, for there are moze bachelars then Rodger, and my peny is as good siluer as yours, & therefore seeing you are so lustie, euen put vp your pipes, so: I will haue no moze to do with you: And so twaying all that euer hath beene said betwixt vs, make your choise where you list, I know where to be loued: and so I end. From Wakefield.

M. R.

From a Father to his Sonne.

My Sonne. I hope so well of your disposition, that you will not unkindly conceiue of that which in loue I write for such is the nature of my affection, as I had rather bee vnderstande in carefull aduising you for your good, then sounge twinkling at your ill: it is told me, which I am sorry to heare, but would be moze grieued to beleue, that you are very readie in wryting your name vnder billes and obligations: by which, as well for your owne sole expences, as to pleasure other in hurting your selfe, you beginne to take by so fast, that I feare you wil be so low taken downe, that you will hardly euer rise againe: beleue me Sonne, suertishippe is a priuie enemy to a good nature, which may sooner pay thine: then receiue one: and therefore among other thinges that I would shew you to take heed of, let suertishippe bee one of the cheifest: what you can spare your friend, demie him not: but as you loue your libertie,

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tie, beware sealing and deliuering: Play is but losse of time, that might be better imployed: for the gaine is but vngainfull, and the losse is often grieuous: and therefore vse it little, and rather for company, then pleasure: Dauncing I allow of, but let not your leages sling away your wittes, in wasting your wealth: spend by measure, howsoeuer your Huske make you daunce. be carefull of thy speech, thristie in thy expence, wearie of thy company, and searous of thy friend: serue God and feare not the diuell: what thou needest let me know, and in thy care of my couaile, let me see thy loue: of which hauing no doubt, and therefore wishing thee all good, desirous shortly to heare from thee: I rest.

Your loving Father. T. W.

The Answer.

My deare Father, farre be it from my heart to haue an vniuersall thought of so kind a Father, in whose good aduice rested the most part of my worldly happines: for as you haue heard, which I beseech you to beleue of me, I haue seene in other, so great mischief and miserie to ensue vpon surtiship that I will rather with neuer to write, then to subscribe to my ruine. for so few pay their owne debts, and so many pay for others, till they haue nothing to pay for their owne, that who keeps my friendship for that end, that misse of my loue in another and therefore feare not what you heare, but beleue what I say touching play, I loue not to trouble my blame with idleness, nor lose time in the abuse of hope: for dauncing, as it is an exercise that I not dislike: so is it not so much my delight, but I can rather leaue it, then loue it: but for my expences, feare not so much my little care of your charge, nor lesse regarde of your loue: in which vnder heauen holding my heartes chiefe happines, in praise for your health and hearts ease, I take my leaue.

Your obedient sonne.

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To a friend familiar.

Having little matter, wherewith to entertaine your expectation, I haue becne enforced to studie for nothing: by this bearer, I know you looke to heare from mee, and to salute you with silence were a cold commendations: let it therefore suffice you, to heare of my health, and the good passages of all your proceedings, touching your law causes: whererein if my loue faint my labour, I will leaue to be my selfe: ere it be long I shall haue occasion to come neare you, when a few miles shall not be a little out of my way to see you, when if your Faulcon bee in tunc, I will be glad to see a flight: so soone as conveniently you may, I pray you let me heare from you: and if you come to the Countie, let my house be your Inne, where making your owne welcom, I hope we shall be merrie: And thus for want of matter, breffer then I would be, I commend my loue to your kindness, and so rest: Alwaies

Your assured loving friend, M.R.

The Answer.

He that hath his wits at commandement, needeth little to studie, and therefore being prouided of inuention, a little matter will serue turne: if of nothing you make so much, what would you do of a little more? Thus I write to meet with your humo: which in silence speaks more then he who talks much to lesse purpose: in brief, for your kind letter I thanks you, for your care of my businesse, I will haue care of you, and so your selfe onely I loue you, if you haue occasion to come downe, use my house as your owne: my Faulcon hath killed a Partridge but of her flight I will make no bygges, but when you come you shall see sport, that I am perswaded will like you: in the meane time glad to heare of your health, the continuance whereof I heartily pray for, wishing as soone as conveniently you may

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may to see you, that we may try a course with our grephounds
for a fat Bucke, hauing now no matter of import. wherewith to
trouble you: With my most hearty commendations, I commit
you to the Almighty.

Your very loving friend. C. L.

To a familiar friend.

Either paper is scant, your affaires are great, or your spirit
is lazie, that in so many weekes I haue not hearde from you
so much as how do you: the cause I would be glad to knowe, so
it be not such as I shall be so; to hear, that either lack of health
or libertie, be not the cause of your silence: I pray you therefore
mend this little fault in friendship, to cease the trouble of imagi-
nation, and in a sufficient excuse set my thoughts at quiet, which
being much disempered thozough doubt of your health, haue
sent this bearer vpon purpose vnto you: whom I beseech you in
all loue returne to me with all speede: netwes we haue none
wo;th the wyting, and therefore knowing your spirit, desirous
not to be troubled with toles, in that heartie loue that holds you
as deare as my life, wishing no greater wo;ldes comfort. then
in the continuall enioying of your happy company: hoping
shortlie to see you here, which can be no sooner then long wished
and shall bee euer most welcome, in the vnfained affection of a
true friend I rest.

Yours as mine owne. N. B.

The Answer.

I perceiue it true, that I haue of often hearde, that loue is not
without searclousie, but as searclfull of hurt: as carefull of good
but to put you out of all doubt, they may bee some disquiet
to your wished rest. let it suffice you, to know my helth as you
left it, I thanke God for it: my affaires not such, but I coulde
salute my friend, w; my spirit so lazie, but I coulde write a lec-
ter

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ter to my so much beloued: and to excuse my silence, let me
you, that the last week I wrote vnto you by your fathers bas-
liffe, who I meruaile hath not deliuered it ere this time: in that
letter you shall find my mind touching your suit in court: which
I feare if it be tedious, will proue more chargeable then commo-
dicus: but obseruing a good course, a good opportunitie may be
prosperous: in my letter I haue written at full vnto you, wher-
in I hope you will cleare all suspition of any fault in my silence
and expect my coming downe ere it be long: in the mean time
with heartie thanks for all kindnesse, without any further nec-
leste complementes: I rest

Yours or not mine owne. R. B.

A Loue Letter

Faire Mistresse, if vpon so final conference, words may haue
credit, she shall not lue, whose fauour shall commaunde
more of my seruice: for such is the vnfained affection, in which I
haue diuoted my selfe to your imploiment, that if there be a hea-
den in this world, I will seeke that Paradise, but in your kind-
nesse: thinke not I seeke with Eloquence, to creepe into your
good opinion: for I had rather bee then seeme to bee, him that
you will I shall be, for such being your worthines, of far more
honour, then the seruice of my affection, mistrust not the truth,
who hateth the thought of dissimulation, and wissheth no greater
happinesse, then in the honour of your commandment: for lo-
ving but you, being fauored by you, I cannot be happie, but in
you, to court you with flatterie, is too common a follie, and to
bribe your kindnes, were a coceit of basenes: but to auow your
seruice, let it be the duty of loue, which from my heart to your
eyes be a messenger of my true thoughts, who with all their pow-
ers, to my bittermost power, haue coniuured me in true seruice.

*Yours chely and wholly, I. M.
The*

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The answer.

God by, to abuse your kindness, were as ungracious, as to admit your service might be dangerous: and therefore not unthankfull for your offer, give me leave to consider of the acceptation: a suddaine passion holds not, and a first desire may be deceitfull, lead not then your heart by your eyes, to the hurt of your spirit, and seeke not happinesse in commendement, where liberty is so much contentment: liking may be short of love, and fancy may be mistaken in the true felicitie: but if truth hath directed your love, honour will bee the reward of your service, which if you shall proffer to a more worthy, you shall make your selfe the more happy: for my selfe I will thinke the best, till I find the contrarie: but to avoid the worst, blame me not to be carefull, a good beginning with a better Proceeding, promisseth a blessed ending, which wishing you in all those countries, where truth is honourable in all her actions, having no occasion of your imployment in a friendly title of commendement, ready to requite that kindnesse, that is honourable in construction, I rest, as I find cause.

Your loving friend. M. R.

To a familiar friend

Having so fit a messenger, I could not let him passe without some remembrance of my love unto you: wherein if I may any waies pleasure you, I will be readier to performe it then speake it: touching such things as you wrote unto by the Carrier, I have taken such order for them, as I hope will be to your content, not a little glad, that I had so good opportunity to speake with the parties, so some upon your letter. I assure you I found them as tractable as you could wish. I have staied all causes till your coming to tolowne, when I hope to bring all matters to a good end: I have sent you by this bearer

C

a remembrance

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a rundlet of Beekie, I hope not of the worst, howsoever it be, I wish it better then it is: I pray you take it in good part, and write me word how you like it: that I may either thanke my Clintner, or change him: newes here are none but old, or false. And therefore only wishing you all happines, with my hearty commendations to your selfe, and to your good bedfellow, I commit you to the Almighty. London this 1. of July, 1604.

Your loving friend. T. W.

An Answer.

I haue receiued your kind letter and freindly token, for both which, with many other your good fauours, I most heartily thanke you, and for your care of my businesse, be you assured it shall not be forgotten. I will be at London if I can within this moneth, when you shall rule me in all things as you list: I am glad you haue spoken with them, & hope by your good meanes, to haue a peace after a long warre: if it had not bene for mine Ague, I had bene with you the last weeke, but so soon as I am sound, I intend to see you: in the meane time in requitall of your Beekie I haue sent you a fatte Doe, which if it proue like your wine, I am sure it will passe without warrant: as it is I commend it to your kindnesse, and my selfe to your commandement and so hoping of your good health: which I pray for as mine owne, with thanks to your wife, for my Banbery chiese, for which I haue sent her a pound of pepper that she wote to me for: ready in what may lye in our powers to pleasure either any one or both of you, as one: I take my leaue at this time, but rest, alwaies

Your poore friend M. R.

A Letter of loue to a faire Mistresse.

W^{or}the Ladie, if the reach of my capacity, could climbe the hope of your fauour, it should be a strange peece of seruice, that I would refuse at your commandement: but, when I
stinke

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thinke vpon your noblenesse, and then behold mine owne vn-
two;thinesse, I can but swallow by those sighes that dare speak
nothing of my loue: and yet when I know that the eyes of ho-
nour regard virtue in no little grace, in the seruice of honour,
I can feare no ill fortune, in the nature of which humblenesse,
th;owing my heart vnto your hands, at the feet of your sauo;
laying the height of my hopes happinesse, till occasion of implor-
ment, and euer diuoted to your commaundement, I rest with-
out rest, till I may euer only, and wholly rest

Tours, in al I am, or not to be my selfe at all. D, G.

Her Answer,

SP., I haue heard it of the wise, that if hope clime to honour,
vertue is a good hold, whose seruice the most noble do most
fauourably entertaine, in the nature of which humo; if your
affection be grounded, haue no feare of fortune, howsoeuer enuy
be your enimie. Who speakes all, in saying nothing, may vn-
derstand an answer by the like reason, and thinke that hand
vnwo;thie hono;, that will not kindly regard the heart of loue,
leauethen the sighes of feare to the faithlesse, and swallow
not a Gudge in a dreame, but as you find cause of honour, so
performe either your loue o; seruice, which too good so; an vn-
wo;thie, reserve so; your better fortune: And so in the best so; of
kindnes ready to requite your good meaning, I rest in what I
may.

Your assured friend. T. N.

Roger to Margery his svvete heart.

MArgery, I haue receiued your snappish letter, whereby
I see you are more angry, then I thought you would
haue bin so; a misword o; two, but I hope to mend what is a-
misse, so; I see I was to blame: so; now I find the knavery of
the world, I will looke a little better to my selfe, so; twas your
Cozins doing to deuise lies to set you & me out, but & you wil be
ruled by me, we wil meete with them wel enough: vpon Fri-

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day, He met you at the market, where wee will haue a cake and a pot, at the Pickersoll and the Spurre, there wee will strike by a bargain, that will not be broken in half: and so soz with all my heart, that I haue done, as I haue done: sending thee twentie kisses by my sister Darnel, and this bowd groat for a loue token: I rest

Yours from all the world. R. H.

Her Answer.

O Roger, the world is wel amended: I thought you were misused to write to me as you did: but friends are nere so farre out, but they may be as farre in againe: & therefore since it was against your will, I forgieue you with all my heart: and let my Coyn doe his worst, He not go from my woide: on Thursday, He meete you at ten of the clocke, and bring a peece of Bacon in my pocket, to relish a cup of Ale: when it shal goe hard, if all hit right, but some body shal wipe their nose for their knauerie, and so Roger hoping that you will no more abuse me as you haue done, to beleue lies and tales of me, til you know the truth: treading all unkindnesse vnder foote, I rest: with al my heart, as I was and wil be euer.

Yours as you know, M. R.

From a Yeoman in the Country, to his Sonne
in London

Sonne, you know what charge I haue bene at with you, as well in bringing you by to London, as in furnishing you for your preferment: all which I hope you will haue such care of, that I shall not thinke any thing lost that I haue done for you: in any wise serue God, please your Maister, and bee carefull of such thinges as you are put in trust with: bee rather an example of good then of euill, and haue patience with all thinges, howsoeuer you are crost in your expectation: beware of euill company, & pride, and drunkennesse, and take heed of following

qf

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of faire wo men. I shal be glad to heare well of you, and as I see you thyside, you shal like me kinde: your mother is an honest man, and a good trades gainefull: but I hope, I shall not need to be too earnest in aduising thee for thy welfare. God who hath created thee, I hope will so blesse thee, that I shall haue ioy of thee: and so; my selfe, with my blessing, I haue sent thee herein enclosed a token of my loue, bid it to thy good: shortly, God willing thou shalt heare further from me: in the meane time and euer I rest.

Your louing Father. T.N.

An Answer of the sonne to the Father,

My good Father, I haue receiued your kinde letter, and tooken, for which I humbly thank you: and so; such things, as you wish me to haue care of, be you assured, I will not be vnmindfull of: so; my Father, I thanke God he putteth mee in trust more then I will speake, and blesse mee so kindly, that I were a Teide, if I should be deceiue him: but my Distresse is so perriolous a woman, that if shee bee displeased, there is no quiet with her: but all the house may learne patience of my Father: and therefore I will feede her humors, and let her haue her saying: so; women when I meane to wive, I will thinke on my choice: and so; enill company. I hope God will blesse mee out of such as are not so; my good: and therefore feare not, but I hope one day to giue you cause to thinke all well bestowed that you haue or will lay out so; mee: I haue sent you by this bearer a haubing bag, my mother a paire of gloves, and my sister a girlet: my Father hath him heartily commended vnto you, and to my Mother, and desires you to send him by a good cheefe, which he will requite: he hath sent my mother a pound of Sugar, and giue her thanks so; her fine puddings: this is all that at this time I haue to wite vnto you, and therefore beseeching your blessing, praying to God so; your health and long life with my humble dutie to you and my good Mother, and commendations to all my friends: I comitt you to the Almightie London.

Your louing sonne. R.D.

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To a wife in the Country.

GOD wke, in all kindnesse I commend me to thy selfe, as-
suring thee that I thinke it long, til I haue dispatched my
businesse, and am at home againe: but I hope of god successe in
my suite, for my counsaile do warrant my case cleare: vpon fry-
day next I shall haue triall, which I doubt not will go on my
side: if it do not, my thought is take, for I thank God I can lue
without it, though I wold be loth to loose it. my helth I thank
God I haue well, and pray for the same with thee and thine: I
pray you sende by r. pound by this bearer, with all speed: and
within fve daies after the dispatch of my businesse, expect my com-
ming downe: in the meane time kisse my little babes for me, to
whome with thy selfe send my heartes hoping commendations,
and so in hast I commit thee to the Almighty. London

Your loving husband. W.T.

The viues answere.

Sweet heart, your messengers hast makes me bleser then o-
ther wile I wold be: the god dispatch of your businesse, I hope
and heartily pray for, your health I am glad of, and your return
cannot bee so soone as wished for: your mony I haue sent you by
this bearer, your little ones, with my selfe wold bee glad to see
you, who doe not a little misse you, for diuers causes too tedious
at this time to trouble you withall: but in any wise remember
your girls Caule, and your boies Hatte which will not be a lit-
tle welcome: but god husband, make one end or an other with
it, this Terme: least delates and demurres make you to spend
more in it then it is worth: but you knowe what to doe, better
then I can aduise you: and therefore leaning to your discretion,
to do what shall best please you, I comit you to God: in hast,

Your loving wife M.VV. A.

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A Letter vpon ordinary causes.

S^r, it is giuen me to vnderstand by some, that lately came from those partes, that in the Ilandes, there haue arriued of late certaine fishermen, that by a crosse wind and suddaine Tempest, are d:riuen into your harbour: if it be true, and that they lye there for any time, I pray you faile not to buy mee a hundredth of Ling, as much Haberdine, and other fish, such as you thinke good, I would lay out a hundredth pounds willingly, what you lay out, you shall vpon your letter haue paid here in London, to whom you shall direct it: I haue sent you dolone by the Carrier a peece of broade cloath, of the same colour whereof you wrote vnto mee: I am assured it will bee to your liking, if you need any more, or any thing els that may lye in my power, I pray you make as bolde of me as any freind you haue. Cole fish nor more I haue no need of: and therefore hoping that you will husband my purse, as a friend with my hearty commendations, I commit you to the Allmightie, London, this eight of Nouember. 1604,

Your louing friend. T. R.

The Answer.

S^r, your letter and peece of cloath I haue receiued, for which I heartily thanke you, for which you shall receiue your money by my Cony at Dice key, whe it please you to send to him: But for the fishermen, indeede they put in for a night, but in the morning the wind came faire, and they put to sea againe: so that except a few Ling, that they bestowed vpon our Waiors and bayliffs, for some fresh victual that they had from vs, there was little bought here at this time: but we heare of them that shortly we shall haue a flete come by vs: when if their be any good to be done, I will not faile to be friend you to your content, in the meane time, wishing any good occasion wherein I might requite your kindnesse, in prayer for your health and hearts ease, I commit you to God: Yarmouth, this xv. of September, 1604.

Yours assured to command. D. N.

A

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A Letter to a friend for dispatch of business

I Em bolde to intreate your kindnesse, to steed me in what you may, touching the purchase of the Millen. and the Hoppe-gardeine, for which if your neighbour will take mine offer, I am for him: or else, I must otherwise determine of my money that I have reserved only for that use. I am offered great pen-worthes in diuers places, but the aire pleaseth me well about that house, and the Trouces in the little brookes haue made me haue a great mind to dwell thereabouts: if therefore you can bring him to my price, I will be beholding to you: if not, let me know his mind and I am satisfied: for to tell you troth, I will haue it, though it cost me moze then it is worth: and so entreating you to do me what good you can herein, for which you shall not find me vnthankfull: I rest.

Yours loving friend. A. W.

The Answer.

I Received your letter dated the xiii. of this Moneth, whereby I vnderstand your mind touching the lease of the two Millen and the Hoppe garden: but I cannot bring it to passe, one penny vnder the summe, whereupon he tells me you were in a manner agreed: the man is hard, but yet very honest: and the land is good, and lieth fine lie to the house: the soile is healthful: and there is good store of springes, besides the Riuer is not farre of, where by you may haue carriage wth kelp from the Citty vpon a small reckoning, but vse your discretion, the price you know, and we you may command, but time would not be deferred, for there are many about it: and therefore leauing to your discretion, either take it or refuse it, with assurance of my helpe to the uttermost of my power, either in this or what els may pleasure you, I alwaies rest.

Yours as you know. T. D.

Her

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Letters of loue, betwixt *Rinaldo* and *Lorina*.

Fairest of the world, and sweetest on the earth: the beautie of whose eyes, puts the best wits to admiration: and the wisdom of whose government, commands the hono: of Lones service: how should my amazed spirit, hope of power to presume nere the happinesse of your fauor? So, Fortune is my euery sworne enemy, and desert must take place in a higher reach the the longest arme of my unworthinesse: yet let me not bee to depriued of reason, that I may not looke into the nature of vertue where hono: in kindnesse makes beauty Angelicall, but in the humilitie of affection to offer the employment of my seruice, in which, if I faile the expectation of your affection, vpon the condemnation of insufficiencie, let disgrace be my deadly punishment: where in the labyrinth of sorrow I may languish all my daies: but if the Fates be not too froward, in crossing the endeuours of my duetie, be you gracious vnto Lucie that hath wholly sworne me your seruant, with which title if I may be honoured, I will seeke no other colours for my comfort: but, fearing your unknown occasions of affaires, I will not be tedious to your patience, but rest euery in my loue.

Yours vowed, though not allowed seruant, Rinaldo.

Her Answer.

VVittiest of a hundred, and craftiest of a thousand, whose eloquence like inchantment, would take prisoner a weake iudgement, how shall my simple capacity conceiue the drift of your deuice: fortune is but a fiction, and therefore it is no matter for her friendship, while desert hath a power in the preferment of duety, and loue in vertue giues an honour to beautie: where if reason be carefull, affection may be ioyfull: but leaue Angels to the heauens, and take heed of diuels of the earth: which vnder the cloake of humilitie hide the head of ambition: perfection hath no affinity with corruption,

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and what the heavens determine the world must endure: but in flatterie of my perfection, you haue decciued my expectation, who imagining you wise, am forie to see the contrarie: and if I might be iudge, the Lawe shoulde quicklie haue his course, where dissimulation appeared, shoulde bee condemned to perpetual disdaine: but hoping better of your humoz, then to wrong the simplicitie of beliefe, let the patience of affection leade you out of the labyrynth of sorrow, to the mountaine of that blisse, whose vertue may giue you grace, and in the comfort of your chiefe care, you may finde the heauen, or your hearts: op. to the attainment whereof, leauing your thoughts to their best issue, I rest as I may.

Your friend. Lorina.

Reply.

The high honoz of your vertue, that from the merit of your graces, pierth through the world so farre beyond fame, as makes her amazed at her wonder, so dampeth the power of my spirit, that as an eye which in beholding in Sunne. twinkleth with the lids, for feare to lose the light: so the humble eye of my heart, that in beholding the bright beams of your Sunne beutie, trembling in feare, by presumptio to lose the light of Lones hope, submitterth it selfe, to the will of that power, which in pittie may save, or in furie may kill, the life of that creature, who at the seete of your favour, hath laide the height of his felicitie: shew therefore the heauenly nature of that vertue, which may purchase your too;thie honour: take not pleasure in destruction, that may be gracious in comfort: but lead the heart by your eye, that hateth the light, but in your loue: where in the glasse of cleere grace, truth may see her beutie vnspotted, & honoz in truths seruice, craues but the entertainment of employment. in which time shall confirme, that care shall euer conclude: my thoughts shall be only honoured in your seruice, and my loue euer happy in your commaundment: in hope whereof, if I may, I will rest.

Your's euer, Rinaldo.

Hor

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Her Answer.

The low course in loves comfort, that you take to leade you into my liking, is so farre from the nature of good desert, that I know not whether Silence were a fitte answer to idlenesse, or reprehension a iust reward for iurisdiction: and therefore in doubt what to doe, pardon mee if I do not as I should doe. for though wisdom would admit no cause of danger, yet courtesie is such a Lawe in Nature, as is too great a friende to loue: yet, if I could chide, and not bee angrie, I could wish you leaue a creeping climbing, least you be thought a baser creature, the may stand with the hono^r of your condition: leaue a twinkling eye to otiose sighes, and figure not the summe in the cipher of a shadow: nor presume farther the you may passe without leare but in submission, vse that discretion that may maintaine the reputation of affection: and bee perswaded that vertue cannot bee migrations, howeuer folle runne vpon destruction, murther is hatefull to nature, and loue is the top of reason, what then should trouble a good spirit, that is possessed of no euill humo^r? but in the resolution of hono^r, to build the hope of his happinesse: and while colours are fittest for painters, to march vnder the ensigne of truth, where in the field of fame, vertue carrieth the victorie: to the triall of which seruice, leauing the happy crient of your aduentures, I rest as I may,

Your poore friend assured.

Lorina.

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A familiar letter to a friend in the Country.

How rare is ingratitude to forgetfulnesse, I wold be loth my silence shoulde make proofoe, especially knowing the kinde welcome of my unworthy letters, and therefore understand you, that all things are here as you left them. health nothing impaired, and our substance, (if we may so terme our share of the treasure) little diminished, but our mindes, through want of your company, not so merrie as when you were with them: for the fustie spirits of unseasoned wits, who understand no other wealth, then their owne will, make time tedious, which were it better exercised wold be much more pleasing: and to tell you truth, were not bookes my better friends, I should be subiect to much melancholie: but my librarie, though but little, stands me in much good steede: in which, if there be any book that may please you, I pray you make use of it, and so soon as you wel may let me entreat your returne: and till then your often writing, that we may ioy in your helth, which as I hope of, I daily pray for. news here are many, but so few true, or of any worth, that being in doubt what to believe, till I haue further certaine intelligence, I will craue pardon for this time, and rest, Alwaies.

Your assured loving friend. VV.T.

The answer.

In reading your letter, then which, nothing but your selfe can be more welcome: mee thinkes I see the meeting of two Lovers in a morning, who surely dreaming of ech other, in their sleepe, scarce well awake, came out with a kinde of wonder. Oh Lord, how haue you done since pester-night: so may I say to you, it is not a full weeke since we were together, & shall wee feare silence, for so little a while: but, what shall I say: it is a pleasing humoꝝ, to sollicite loue, and a content to the minde, to continue

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continue kindnesse, which fortune crossing in want of presence, wit can worke in sight of absence: let then the muddie fish dwell in the mirie lakes, and the better natures seek their sweeter places: and for thy Librarie, I will not make thee zealous of my Loue, but let me tell thee they are most sweete companions, and so for their owne sakes esteeme of them: and though I loue them, yet will I not deprive thee of any of them: but when I come to thee, with thy loue and leaue, I will dwell among them: for to an vnderstanding spirit, they are a kind of paradise. Now for my health, I thanke God, I neede no Physicke, and for my purse, it hath went enough for letting my money growe rustie: & for my minde, to tell thee truth, it is with God, and thee: with whom I hope to be shortly, till when, & then, and euer I rest:

What mine thine. F. R.

A Letter from a Father to his sonne at the Vniuersitie.

My deare sonne, as nothing can toy the heart of a father more then the obedience of a louing child, so can there be nothing more grieuous, then the Stubborne spirit of an vngratious sonne, I speake this to thee, knowing thy yeares and vnderstanding, able to digest the consideration of my desire which in summe, is my ioy in thy good: for, let me tell thee, my estate thou knowest, and how much I haue strained my credit, for thy aduancement, to which learning being a spacie and assured good meane, I woulde bee glad to see my comfort in thy profit, in such frutes of thy studie, as with the blessing of God, may haften thy preferment: I am sory to tell thee, that I heare thy diligence doth not answer my desire, and woulde gladly wish it otherwise: but I hope, a kind admonition, will suffice to worke a good nature: and therefore will rather hope the best, then doubt the contrarie: and in the loue of a father, let mee entreat thee to auoid the company of a lewde fellow, as rather an enemy then a friend: the seruile sere, are dangerous to

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affect, soz as they will be a losse of time. so with hinderance of study, they will procure expence: the exercise of thy body, I admit soz thy health: but let thy loue be in thy learning. else wilt thou neuer be good scholler: soz desire and delight, are the best masters both of art and knowledge, while reason vertuous, makes vnderstanding gracious: & therefore not out of the bitter honioz of displeasure, but the carefull nature of affection, I write vnto thee, to warne thee from what may hurt thee, and aduise thee soz thine owne good: and so praying to God soz thee, whome I beseech daily to blesse thee with my hearts loue, to the Lords blessing I leaue thee.

Thy louing Father, H.N.

An Answer of the sonne to his Father.

After the bands of humble dutie, my good Father, I haue receiued your most kind and louing letter, in which, how much toz I haue receiued, I can not expresse: fearing rather your sharpe rebuke, then louing admonition: but **G O D** is himselfe, who can and doth worke more in some natures, with a kinde chiding, then in some other, with many stripes: I know, you are not ignorant of the inclination of youth, and therefore doe thus kinde touch the hurt of vnhedfulnesse, soz which, how much I do humbly thank you, I hope my care of your counsel, in time shall pleasingly tell you: therefore soz what ill you haue heard, griene not, and of the good you may heare doubt not: & belieue me, soz I will not abuse your trust, what vanitie soeuer I haue seemed to affect, my booke hath bene the mistresse of my loue: in which, how much I will labour, and from which, what profit I will gather, your hope shall see in the effect of Gods blessing: without the which, how dangerous are diuers studies, to the vnderstanding of vngenerous spirites, I wou'd it were not knowne in any, and pray God, that none may know in me: soz
my

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my preferment, I leave it to Gods pleasure, who best knoweth how to dispose of his servants: and for your contentment, that it may be in my obedience: your health as my worlds happines I pray for: mine owne moderate exercise, with abstinence from excessse, both with Gods blessing hold in good state: and for the minime ser. though I would be no hypocrite, yet I had rather read of them then be acquainted with the: for I follow of your opinion touching them: and so hoping, that ere long you shal receive as much content of my courses, as you have ever doubted the contrary, in the dutie of my humble love, I take my leave for this time, but rest Alwaies,

Your obedient sonne, T. N.

To his deare and onely beloved mistress
Susan Pearle.

Sweetest of my thoughts, and dearest of my love, if reason had the power to expresse the nature of my passion, I am persuaded that the eye of thy beautie would boughsafe a kinde looke upon the heart of my love, which continually languishing in the doubt of thy affection, desireth not to live, but in the comfort of thy kindnesse: loath I am with ceremonious eloquence to move suspicion of truth and yet an silent pearle would be set in pure gold: grosse speeches fitte not fine spirits, and for your selfe, I will rather honour then flatter you: and if I may serve you, I will so well deserve of you, that I will lay the hope of my worlds happinesse, upon the one honour of your favour: for setting aside all care of other contentment, I have bequeathed my life to your love: in which if I faile in the truth of your trust, let mee receive the reward of your disgrace: which being more direfull, then death can be, let mee beseech your admonition of my service, beliefe of my love, and regards of my triaile: which, bee it in body, or minde, shall have no rest, but in your pleasure. What shall I
say

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say: but time is pretious, and delaied patience in passion most
griuous: haften therefore I beseech you the hope of my desire,
in the happinesse of your commandement, and let no cloude of
mistrust barre me the light of your loue, which beeing on this
earth the onely bright Starre, that leads m: to my wolds hea-
uen, let m: liue as in a depth, till I may reuiue in this comfort:
in hope whereof, & prayer for which, laying the head of my sor-
tune, at the seate of your honour: I rest with little rest, till I
may fully and wholly rest.

Yours onely and all, or mine owne nothing at all.

T. I.

FINIS.

